

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A lamp socket mounted on a lamp unit body and connected to another lamp socket through wires, the lamp socket comprising:

a socket body;

a connector housing for accommodating a connector provided to the socket body;

a bulb mounting portion for mounting a lamp to the socket body; and

a monolithic terminal member within the socket body; wherein the terminal member is adapted to be electrically directly connected to the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires, and wherein the terminal member is adapted to contact the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires.

2. (previously presented): The lamp socket according to claim 1, wherein the socket body comprises a wire connection portion for electrically connecting the terminal member to the at least one of the wires.

3. (previously presented): The lamp socket according to claim 2,

wherein the wire connection portion comprises a wire insertion groove in which the terminal member is mounted; and

the terminal member comprises at one end a press-connecting blade which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect to a conductor of the at least one of the wires, and at another end a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector.

4. (previously presented): The lamp socket according to claim 3, wherein the lamp contacts a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting blade and the male tab.

5. (previously presented): The lamp socket according to claim 3, wherein the wire insertion groove comprises opposed retaining projections at an end of an opening of the wire insertion groove, and a distance between the opposed retaining projections is smaller than an outer diameter of the at least one of the wires.

6. (currently amended): A socket assembly comprising:

a lamp unit body; and

a plurality of lamp sockets mounted on the lamp unit body and connected together through wires, each of the plurality of lamp sockets comprising;

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a socket body;

a connector housing for accommodating a connector to the socket body,

a bulb mounting portion for mounting a lamp to the socket body; and

a monolithic terminal member within the socket body; wherein the terminal member is adapted to be electrically directly connected to the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires;

wherein the plurality of lamp sockets are electrically connected together through the wires connected to the terminal members, and wherein the terminal member contacts the connector, and is adapted to contact the lamp and at least one of the wires.

7. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of lamp sockets are connected to one another by wires of different lengths.

8. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 6, wherein the socket body comprises a wire connection portion for electrically connecting the terminal member to the at least one of the wires.

9. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 8, wherein

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the wire connection portion comprises a wire insertion groove in which the terminal member is mounted; and

the terminal member comprises at one end a press-connecting blade which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect to a conductor of the at least one of the wires, and at another end a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector.

10. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 9, wherein the lamp contacts a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting blade and the male tab.

11. (previously presented): The socket assembly according to claim 9, wherein the wire insertion groove comprises opposed retaining projections at an end of an opening of the wire insertion groove, and a distance between the opposed retaining projections is smaller than an outer diameter of the at least one of the wires.

12. (currently amended): A socket assembly comprising:

a lamp unit body; and

a plurality of lamp sockets mounted on the lamp unit body and electrically connected together through wires, each of the plurality of lamp sockets comprising:

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a socket body including a wire connection portion;
a connector housing for accommodating a connector to the socket body,
a bulb mounting portion for mounting a lamp to the socket body; and
a terminal member provided within the socket body; wherein the terminal member is adapted to be electrically directly connected to the connector, the lamp, and at least one of the wires;

wherein the terminal member includes two ends, one end including a press-connecting portion provided within the wire connection portion of the socket body, the press-connecting portion capable of ~~directly electrically connecting~~ contacting the terminal member to a conductor of the at least one of the wires,

wherein ~~the~~ another end of the two ends has a connector portion that projects into the connector housing ~~for directly electrically connecting the terminal to that is capable of contacting~~ the connector, and

wherein a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting portion and the connector portion is capable of contacting the lamp ~~contacts a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting portion and the connector portion.~~

13. (currently amended): The socket assembly according to claim 12, wherein the wire connection portion comprises a wire insertion groove in which the terminal member is mounted;
and

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~~the terminal member comprises at one end a press-connecting blade which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect to a conductor of the at least one of the wires, and at another end a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector.~~

Please add the following new claims:

14. (previously presented): The lamp socket according to claim 13, wherein the wire insertion groove includes opposed retaining projections at an end of an opening of the wire insertion groove, and a distance between the opposed retaining projections is smaller than an outer diameter of the at least one of the wires.

15. (new): The socket assembly according to claim 12, wherein the one end includes a press-connecting blade which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect the terminal member to the conductor of the at least one of the wires, and the other end includes a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector

16. (new): The socket assembly according to claim 13, wherein the one end includes a press-connecting blade which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect the terminal member to the conductor of the at least one of the wires, and the other end

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includes a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector.

17. (new): The socket assembly according to claim 12, wherein the terminal member is a monolithic structure.

18. (new): The socket assembly according to claim 17, wherein the wire connection portion comprises a wire insertion groove in which the terminal member is mounted.

19. (new): The lamp socket according to claim 18, wherein the wire insertion groove includes opposed retaining projections at an end of an opening of the wire insertion groove, and a distance between the opposed retaining projections is smaller than an outer diameter of the at least one of the wires.

20. (new): The socket assembly according to claim 17, wherein the one end includes a press-connecting blade which can bite into a sheath of the at least one of the wires to electrically connect the terminal member to the conductor of the at least one of the wires, and the other end includes a male tab projecting into an interior of the connector housing for directly electrically connecting to the connector.